

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 12, 2004, has been reviewed and considered. Applicant appreciates the opportunity for his counsel to meet with the examiner and to discuss the invention and prior art. Applicant further appreciates the examiner's indication that the proposed claim appears to define the invention over the prior art. Claims 1-6 are canceled, and claim 8 has been amended in a manner consistent with the interview. Reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The abstract has been amended to eliminate the use of "The invention relates to" and "said." The abstract has also been modified for easier reading.

Claim 8 has been amended to overcome the examiner's objection concerning whether "each" support lobe had a certain length.

Claim 8 recites a clamping piece of springy sheet metal used to secure a component to a panel. The clamping piece includes two arms that extend from a spring bottom. The arms each define a generally V-shaped latching recess that encompasses opposite edges of a panel opening. Support lobes extend between the arms toward the component and are drawn to the component as the screw is tightened. The support lobes will come to abut against the component so that the clamping piece applies a consistent pressure even though the operator cannot see the clamping piece. Without such supporting lobes, the operator is forced to either stop turning the screw based upon the perceived resistance or after a predetermined number of turns. As can be appreciated, such procedures can lead to clips that have been over-tightened or not

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tightened enough. The present invention provides certainty to the applied pressure in such blind situations in a novel, efficient and beneficial manner.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,430,555 to Burke, U.S. Patent No. 3,869,760 to Meyer, or EP 423,021, and under 35 USC 103 as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,192,823 to Munse. As discussed during the interview, Applicant believes that claim 8 defines the invention over the prior art.

In Burke, prongs 6 engage the threads of the screw to cause an outward bulging of the device over the sides of the aperture 8 to prevent removal of the nut. The central portion 2 is provided with an aperture 5 to guide the screw and prevent cocking. There are no support lobes included with this nut that extend from a spring bottom to abut the component during use and apply a desired pressure.

Meyer discloses a push-on type fastener and as such is a different kind of device. Accordingly, the Meyer fastener fails to include latching recesses that encompass edges of a panel opening or opposing support lobes that extend from a spring bottom to abut a component and maintain a minimum distance between the component and the spring bottom.

For consideration by the examiner, a translation of EP '021 is attached as an appendix to this response. EP '021 discloses a caged nut designed to withstand high torque forces. This device comprises a separate cage 1 and plate 6. This device does not include a spring bottom connecting opposing arms or support lobes that extend to

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abut a component being attached.

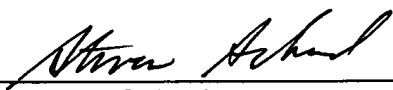
Munse discloses a caged nut wherein the nut 11 is received within cage 10. In this assembly, the nut is initially positioned in a raised position (shown in Figure 1) to permit insertion of the arms 16, 21 into opening 27. The nut is then pushed down and held in this operative position by detent 18 as seen in Figure 4. Applicant submits that it would not have been obvious to include a second detent on the other side to hold the nut. The structure of the cage already holds the nut. Further, the ability to set the nut on an angle is needed for the operation of the Munse device. Moreover, the detent is not a support lobe that extends from a spring bottom to abut a secured component during use as set forth in claim 8.

For all of the above-discussed reasons, Applicant submits that claims 7-8 are allowable. A notice to this effect is requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees related to this mater to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

Respectfully submitted,

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